Time taken for answering Interpellations.

118. **MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI** (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of time taken each day in answering interpellations during the last two meetings of the Legislative Council (Tulam and Medam 1102)?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The time taken each day in answering interpellations is in accordance with Standing Order No. 9 of the Legislative Council and that order is being adhered to in practice.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): May I know what is the average amount of time taken each day in answering the questions? That was what I intended.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I am sorry that there is no record of the exact time taken by the Council in answering the questions each day.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): That could have been stated in the answer.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It was thought that the question was with regard to the time taken up for answering all the questions.

Bridges across the Ananta Victoria Martandan Canal.

119. **MR. X. G. LOPEZ** (*Nominated*): (1) Are the Government aware:

(*a*) that the people living in the coast villages from Vallavilai to Tengapattanam have to cross the Ananta Victoria Martandan canal to get into the interior; and

(*b*) that the said canal is subject to floods during several months of the year and becomes unfordable?

(2) Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there were bridges over the said canal from Vallavilai to Tengapattanam; if so, how many and at what places; and

(*b*) whether those bridges exist now, and, if not, when they were removed and on what account?

(3) Are the Government aware of the hardships which the people, especially the market-going women and the school-going children, are put to for want of bridges?

(4) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of petitions they have received from 1084 onwards regarding the above-said hardship and what action was taken on them?

(5) Will the Government be pleased to reconstruct the bridges at an early date?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(1) (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The canal is subject to floods during some months in the year.

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(2) (*a*) There were 6 foot-bridges over the Ananta Victoria Martandan canal at the following places :—

i. 19th mile, Kollenkod.
ii. 20th mile, Martandanturai.
iii. 21st mile, Vallavilai.
iv. 22nd mile, Atichantura.
v. 23rd mile, Thattur, and
vi. 24th mile, Poottura.

(*b*) Only two of the six bridges exist now, *i. e.*, those at the 19th and 20th miles. The others are reported to have decayed and disappeared years ago through the action of the sea breeze.

(3) and (4) Petitions have been received in regard to the construction of a bridge at Vallavilai on the 21st mile of the Ananta Victoria Martandan canal. The exact number of petitions received during the last 18 years cannot be ascertained.

(5) Estimates for bridges at the 21st and 24th miles have been called for by the Chief Engineer.

Report of the Excise Committee.

120. **MR. G. NARAYANA PILLAI** (*Tiruvalla*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether final orders have been passed by them on the recommendations of the Excise Committee referred to in their review of the Administration Report of the department for the year 1101 ; and

(*b*) if not, the cause of the delay in doing so?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) and (*b*) Several of the Excise Committee's recommendations are, under instructions from the Government, being given effect to ; *e. g.*,

(i) the fee for licenses for the retail vend of foreign liquor has been raised from Rs. 150 to Rs. 200.

(ii) The reduction in the number of foreign liquor shops to two wholesale shops in the larger towns and one in other places and to one retail shop in the larger towns and none at all in other places is being given effect to.

(iii) The reduction in the number of arrack and toddy shops by 5 per cent. at the renewal of each biennial contract is being carried out.

(iv) The location of shops beyond two furlongs from public places is being enforced, wherever possible.

(v) The rule fixing the hours of sale in toddy and arrack shops up to 8 P. M. is being steadily enforced.

(vi) Liquor duties *i. e.*, duty on arrack and tree tax were raised at the renewal of the last biennial contract.

(vii) Occasional licenses for the sale of liquor at fairs and festivals are being refused.

The other recommendations of the Committee are under consideration by the Government.

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